

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A flexible joint assembly for conducting a fluid, comprising:
 - a joint assembly inlet;
 - a joint assembly outlet; and
 - a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the fluid flow path including:
 - a first pivot joint;
 - a second pivot joint, wherein each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint independently comprises a ball and socket joint, wherein each ball and socket joint comprises:
 - a socket;
 - a ball received in the socket;
 - a seal between the ball and the socket, and each ball and socket joint further comprises a compressing member axially compressing the seal between the ball and the socket and a retaining ring compressing the seal between the ball and the socket; and
 - a unitary central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints wherein the central fluid conductor couples to a first ball of the first pivot joint and a second ball of the second pivot joint, and each retaining ring compresses the seal by threadably connecting to a surface of the socket adjacent to the central fluid conductor and the ball,
 - wherein the central fluid conductor is shorter than 10 centimeters,
 - wherein the pivot joints together provide greater than a 60° bend between the inlet and the outlet and each pivot joint independently provides greater than a 35° bend in the fluid flow path.
- 2-6. **(Canceled).**
7. **(Original)** The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint together provide a substantially 90° bend between the inlet and the outlet.
8. **(Canceled)**
9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Original)** The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein the joint assembly inlet and the joint assembly outlet include a fitting.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Original)** The flexible joint assembly of claim 1 wherein each pivot joint independently provides greater than a 40° bend in the fluid flow path.

13-40. **(Canceled)**

41. **(Currently Amended)** A flexible joint assembly comprising:

- a joint assembly inlet;

- a joint assembly outlet; and

- a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the flow path including:

- a first pivot joint;

- a second pivot joint; and

- a unitary central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the pivot joints, each of the first pivot joint and second pivot joint including:

- an inner member;

- a receiving member dimensioned to pivotally receive at least part of the inner member;

- a sealing member sealing between the inner member and the receiving member;

- a supporting member supporting the sealing member substantially uniformly over the entire length of the seal between the inner member and the receiving member, and

- a retaining ring compressing the supporting member and the sealing member by threadably connecting to a surface of the receiving member adjacent to the central fluid connector and the inner member; the central fluid conductor includes a tubular central portion that defines a longitudinal channel between a first conductor end terminated by a first ball and a second conductor end terminated by a second ball.

42-43. **(Canceled)**